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The Highlander

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Thursday **1 December 2011** | Issue 9

Haliburton County's Independent Newspaper

County welcomes winter



Winter smacked Haliburton County on Wednesday and the usual first-storm-of-the-season accidents soon followed. Above left, Alison Hutchings of Haliburton was not injured when her Sunfire went through the guardrail on Highway 118, just west of the Parish Line. The Highlander's Production Manager, Heather Kennedy, saw the car in the ditch, and our own Good Samaritan immediately stopped to make sure no one was injured. Earlier, Jashelle Kitcheman of Minden, in her Ram pickup, complete with wood splitter, slipped off the Gelert Road in the slushy conditions. Jashelle also was not injured in the accident. Photos by Walter Griffin.

CT Scanner, palliative care approved

The Central East LHIN has approved the purchase of a CT scanner for the Haliburton hospital, as well as Phase Two of the palliative care proposal. The Haliburton Highlands Health Services Board Chair Dale Robinson announced the decision at last week's HHHS board meeting. The proposals now go to the Ministry of Health for final approval.

This good news is tempered, however, with the caveat that the proposals must be self-funded. In other words, the HHHS at this point must raise the money itself. There still is a

possibility of some provincial funding, but there are certainly no guarantees. The estimated cost of the CT scanner is \$1.5 million, and for the palliative care room, another \$2.5 million. The majority of the palliative costs would be for building an extension to the existing Haliburton hospital. The proposal includes not just the bed itself, but also space for family to stay.

The CT scanner will save substantial dollars now being spent on transferring patients to Lindsay and Peterborough.

The CT scanner costs also include a substantial amount for building a suitable space. Those costs could be reduced if an existing space were used. The board has considered converting the Haliburton Hospital boardroom for this use.

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation expressed their enthusiasm for raising money for these projects. Such a fundraising campaign would be the largest undertaken by the Foundation since the hospital itself was built.

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Around the county



Minden Home Hardware raises funds for YWCA Women's Shelter and Volunteer Fire Department

Minden Home Hardware held its fourth annual Ladies Night Fashion Show on Friday Nov 18. Organizer and store owner Jodi Patterson said proceeds from the night's charitable fundraiser garnered \$684 in support of the YWCA Women's Shelter and the Minden Volunteer Fire Department.

\$5,000 for Legion roof repairs



The Ladies Auxiliary presents a cheque for \$5,000 to the Wilberforce Legion. From left to right: 1st Vice - Bob Brown, President - Mary Dunne - L.A. President - Joan Clark, Deputy Zone Commander - Georgina Hill

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Algonquin Highlands

\$600,000 in back taxes collected

By Jerry Grozelle

Algonquin Highlands Treasurer Tammy McKelvey's report for November was welcome news for the members of the township's council.

"I am pleased to advise that our aggressive tax collection procedures implemented this year have resulted in several tax accounts being paid in full and acceptable payment arrangements have been approved on many other accounts," McKelvey reported. "From June 30 to October 31, the municipality has reduced our tax arrears by approximately \$530,000. These payments do not include the current year taxes that have also been collected."

McKelvey said another \$50,000 had been collected since the report, dated November 4, was drafted.

Reeve Carol Moffatt asked if the remaining arrears were because the property owners couldn't be found or if they just wouldn't pay. McKelvey said there were some cases where it has been difficult to locate property owners and some where the owners haven't made an effort to pay. "We don't tolerate that," Moffatt replied to the latter.

Moffatt thanked McKelvey and the other staff members involved in the tax collection for their work.

McKelvey noted that the process was time consuming but tax registration procedures (registration to sell property for non-payment of taxes) have been avoided in most cases. A total of six registrations have been issued over the past three months. She explained the procedure is a last resort, adding that in those particular cases it was unavoidable.

Notices have also been sent out to property owners whose taxes will be in arrears for three years at the beginning of 2012 in an effort to be proactive.

The bottom line for the township is that its cash flow has been improved. "I do not anticipate any borrowing for operating costs at the end of the year, which has been required in the past," McKelvey said in her report. "Our revenue for investment interest will also exceed our budget for 2011."

Trail fees to increase

Camping rates and rental fees for the Haliburton Highlands Water Trails program will increase slightly in 2012 as a result of an annual review when staff researched fees in other areas that offer similar facilities. For 2012 the adult camping rate of \$11.50 will increase to \$12. The senior rate of \$9.20 will go to \$9.60 and the youth rate of \$5 will go to \$5.25.

Canoe rentals will go up \$2 to \$3 depending on the particular canoe and the car kits will increase from \$5 to \$7. Most other rates and fees will remain unchanged from the 2011 schedule. Costs do not include HST.

Trails Coordinator Mark Coles noted that the camping rates were increased by 10 per cent in 2010, which was the first increase in five years. He pointed out that the HHWT occupancy rate increased by six per cent in 2011 while the economic growth for Canada was forecast at 3 per cent.

An opportunity to take advantage of the Ontario Parkbus Program will be explored for 2012. The program provides bus transport to various parks throughout the province from the GTA for outdoors enthusiasts.

Coleman said initial contact with Parkbus officials regarding the bus service up the Highway 35 corridor to HHWT destinations was positive.

"They have organized bus transportation from the city to various park destinations, Algonquin Park being a main one," Coleman said. "People who do not have vehicles or do not wish to drive up from the city can just basically get on the bus with their backpack and go to a destination. They get off the bus and go on their trip. When they are finished their trip they get picked up at the same place they were dropped off."

Coleman said the Parkbus program officials are planning to expand and are in the process of negotiating with potential partners and applying for funding from the Trillium Foundation and the Tourism Development Fund. A draft letter of support has been provided by Parkbus for council to consider endorsing.

Council decided to support the initiative in principle and directed staff to forward a letter of support and to pursue

discussions and report back to council on a potential partnership to bring the service to Algonquin Highlands.

Destination Guide

Council discussed the possibility of advertising in the 2012 Haliburton County Destination Guide.

"I definitely think this is something we should continue to buy into," Danielsen said. "I do think it does us a world of good. It's an excellent project."

Samples of two different layouts for the municipal ads were provided by Parker Pad, the successful bidder on the county's Destination Guide tender. Danielsen suggested the location of the ads correspond with the geographic locations of the four municipalities within Haliburton County.

Moffatt suggested sending comments back to Parker Pad and suggesting changes to the layout.

Council agreed to buy a full-page ad in the 2012 Destination Guide at a cost of just over \$2,000, including HST.

Firefighters appointed

In Fire Chief John Hogg's report, he recommended council appoint several new firefighters to the three fire stations within the municipality. He pointed out that all of the volunteer firefighters have completed the probation period.

Appointments to Station 60 (Dorset) include Bob Finney, Don Shortreed and Scott Gilchrist. Station 70 (Oxtongue) appointees are Jenn Cousentine and Becky Ellas. Appointments to the Station 80 Fire Hall (Stanhope) include Brandon Thomas, Adam Thorn, Dave Mount, Randy Griffin, Kevin Alcock, Adam Pavlinic, Kevin Ryalen and Wes Leufkens.

Hogg also recommended that Dan Flynn be appointed Acting District Chief, Bob Finney be appointed Acting Captain and Mechanical Officer and that Peter Giamos be appointed Acting Captain. All three officers will serve at Station 60 in Dorset. Hogg said in his report that the appointments would remain in effect until May 1, 2012 when the promotion policy comes into effect and permanent appointments will be made.

West Guilford Woman charged

OPP officers from the Haliburton Highlands detachment stopped a vehicle at 5 pm on Nov 21, after a concerned Minden resident reported a suspected drunk driver near the Minden Community Centre.

The incident took place on Bobcaygeon Road, where officers determined the driver had been consuming alcohol.

Rochelle Griffin, 45, of West Guilford, was charged with impaired driving. She is to appear in Minden Court on Jan 4, 2012.

Correction

In an article in the November 17 edition on the proposed Music Festival for the Minden Fairgrounds, we stated that the "Fair Board, Rotary Club and Kin Club, are planning to partner with the event organizers".....

In fact, the Rotary Club of Minden partners with the Minden Kin Club and Minden Legion as well as the Minden Agricultural Society in putting on a Bluegrass festival which is an event completely separate from the one noted in the article.

The Highlander regrets the error.

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Editorial opinion



Health notes from all over

By Stephen Patrick

I realize that this column is in danger of becoming a weekly report/rant on the state of our health care, but please bear with me for one more week. In previous columns I discussed two-tier Ontario health care as it applied to my own and others' eye surgeries – and urged our politicians to come clean on just what kind of system we can afford. This topic has also dominated the national media during the past week, with all kinds of editorial pundits calling for precisely this kind of 'honest conversation' about private care, private funding and national standards.

Here at home we also witnessed another example of how oddly our system works. As reported on Page One of this issue, the Central Ontario LHIN (which in effect distributes government funding to our local Haliburton Highlands Health Services) approved our purchase of a CT scanner and the addition of a palliative care suite. Approved, but with no cash attached, even though the CT scanner will in the long run save us money. Which leaves us to find the monies within our community through fundraising. So the government, through the LHIN, approves of a plan, agrees with the wisdom of the expenditure, and then denies the funding.

This is not exactly the kind of two-tier approach that we've talked about the last two weeks, but it continues the trend started in the late 1990s in Ontario, which insists that some clearly necessary government services be privately funded.

This approach guarantees that small local hospitals, not to mention grand institutions like Toronto's Sick Kids, establish permanent, full-time and costly fundraising operations, in order to meet what can easily be seen as a hospital's professional obligations.

The generosity towards our hospitals shown by permanent and seasonal residents, and even casual visitors, has been heartwarming to say the least. But these are hard times, and all of us, individuals and businesses, are under constant pressure to fundraise for our health care, our school programs, our food banks, our hockey teams, youth groups, cottage association regattas, dog pounds, feral cat compounds, you name it. What's happened is that private fundraising has now become institutionalized, in effect an industry unto itself. People go to university now to learn how to do it.

Those who fear government bureaucracy should be aware that these foundations and charities are now almost an arm of government itself – an unlegislated tax collector if you will. What this stealth downloading does is put the burden back on the community our elected government has been hired to serve; with such a voluntary tax regime, communities get only the health care they can afford. That's not the universal health care system most Canadians want to maintain.

Corrections

Some corrections to my last columns: I implied that one of my correspondents felt pressured by her doctors to select the expensive (\$3200) eye surgery option, rather than the OHIP version. She replies: "The specialist made clear the advantages and disadvantages of going the OHIP route versus the private route. However, I did not in any way feel pressured by him, and I thought he laid out the options very fairly and without indicating undue negativity towards the OHIP option. He said he wished the newer surgery was covered, but at this time, it was his information that OHIP was not endorsing new inclusions."

Finally, my good friend Dr. Rene Benoit, optometrist, wishes to point out, in good humour, that "I have never ever told one of my patients that 'their eyes were swimming in cataracts'."

Writers. An untrustworthy bunch, to be sure.



What a dump

By Bram Lebo

No question, there's too much garbage at the Dysart landfill. Unfortunately the solutions currently being mooted by the municipality won't do a thing about it. The suggestions include limiting the number of bags and having stricter supervision of drop-offs.

Politicians like to think they can regulate human behaviour. If the fine is big enough, the intrusion great enough — well, we'll all just fall into line. Indeed, if we taxpayers can only be persuaded or threatened into behaving properly, the whole problem will just go away, a strategy that has met with success pretty much nowhere.

Politicians love the idea of people sorting garbage because they think it doesn't cost anything. They're wrong, of course. If each of Dysart's 2,000 or so households spends ten minutes per week sorting garbage, that works out to \$150,000 per year at minimum wage, enough to hire perhaps five full-time sorters. By doing our own sorting, we're subsidizing waste diversion by doing the work for free.

As a community effort that might be ok, except for one thing: we stink at it. Out of 100 people, ten will dutifully and successfully sort their garbage, having read all the relevant materials, guidelines, threats and notices. Another twenty will do their best but be stymied by impossible choices: is a Coke box paper or cardboard? Why Styrofoam trays but not Styrofoam peanuts?

A further fifty percent will give half-hearted attempts, contaminating the bins with misplaced plastic bags and metallic wrapping paper, with the final twenty — rogues, all of them — refusing to participate and throwing all of their refuse, batteries included, into the big, stinky pile.

Relying on taxpayers to sort garbage guarantees only one thing: that it will never be done properly. It's a lose-lose proposition, where citizens have to waste time sorting and the municipality doesn't get the waste diversion it needs. Adding fines, hiring observers to monitor recycling bins, won't solve the problem. These measures will simply make people angry and, in some cases, more likely to divert waste to the worst possible place — the nearest ditch.

This is not an argument for doing nothing. On the contrary, our municipalities should have zero-waste policies. But the only way to achieve that is not through threats and clampdowns, but by hiring full-time sorters. It's the only way the task will be done properly. Ask the public to do it, and you get what you paid for.

When seasonal residents are factored in, the cost might increase the average tax bill by \$20 per year. That seems a fair amount to ensure our waste doesn't poison us and that we do our part to recycle our garbage.

Letters to the editor

Re: Bragging Board letter to the editor, Nov 24/11

Dear Editor:

This all becomes a matter of choice.

You choose not to eat meat, while most others choose to eat meat. Wouldn't it be just as easy to choose not to buy the paper or read the papers during the annual hunting season? Rather than condemn the papers and ask for apologies, don't get yourself all upset for something that bothers you so much. Just choose not to view them.

I choose to share in the successful accomplishments of our youths, in this community.

Kim Roberts,
Haliburton

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Letters to the Editor

Bragging Board – week 1

Dear Editor:

I am proud of my daughter who, by the way, was top left corner of the bragging board. Hunting is something we have done as a family ever since all three of my kids were of age to hunt. Rule #1 – if you kill it, you make sure you are going to eat it. Our family chooses to eat wild meat and fresh fish over store-bought meats and fish. To me, the Bragging Board is exciting. All of the animals plus hundreds, even thousands, across the province feed tens of thousands of people, we have as much right to be proud as you do. My kids and I provide for our families in the way we choose and will continue to do so. As far as our papers go, its community information, and hunting here is a way of life – and always will be. How many people, especially older generations, read this and say “I remember when we hunted and fished as a family – what great memories we have.” Everyone has a right to an opinion, but as for your apology – you don’t deserve one.

Norm Perrott
PS – Not Anonymous!

“Hunting is a privilege and a right.”

Dear Editor:

As I read the “anonymous” letter to the editor in last week’s paper, I was shocked by two things.

First: the fact that The Highlander actually printed a letter from a person who so cowardly requested that her name be omitted. Following the editorials and letters regarding how proud The Highlander is to publish names of persons who have been charged by the OPP, no exceptions, I found this to be extremely hypocritical.

Does this person have some “influence” with someone at your paper?

Secondly, the fact that this person expects an apology for printing the Bragging Board in the first place. Does she expect an apology from the grocery store every time a chicken or steak is in the flyer? Does she have any idea of the money that hunting brings into this community? Hunting is a privilege and a right. Hunters spend large amounts of money taking courses, and purchasing specialized equipment. No one can just wake up and say, “Think I’ll go hunting today.” There are restrictions, licenses and seasons.

Our community has an over-abundance of deer and hunting, is an excellent humane way of dealing with the population. Animal cruelty is seeing the carcass of an animal lying at the side of the highway, knowing it possibly died a slow agonizing death. Maybe I should request an apology from the car dealerships for making the cars that hit the animal.

Your reader chose a non-meat-eating lifestyle. You can also make a choice not to read something that offends you. I am very impressed with the Bragging Board and proud of the people who have taken the time to submit their photos.

Kathy Alcock

Kudos to coverage of Superstars Tribute at Pinestone

Dear Editor:

This (Superstars Tribute at the Pinestone) show has traveled Canada for over three years and raised over \$100.000 for various organizations, including Childrens Wish. You can learn more about it and watch videos at: superstartributelive.com.

Wonderful photos from this event by the way! (Photos and slideshow are available at haliburtonhighlander.ca.)

Sincerely,
Viga Boland
GTA

Not WWII aircraft

Dear Editor:

I am sure someone else will have mentioned this but the aircraft you refer to as a “World War II aircraft” was built by A.V. Roe Canada and taken on strength by the Royal Canadian Air Force on 03 June 1956 (a “little” after WW II) and was numbered 18602. The present number A683 was a ground only use number likely issued for use at a training base such as Camp BORDEN.

I hope when they refurbish it they will restore the original ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE markings and number. It deserves better than a training number after having served last at 433 Squadron until 08 July 1960.

Thanks,

LAC M.J. (Mike) MAHER 213647
Minden, Ontario

Marilyn at the Pinestone

Dear Editor:

Where is Jack? Had I been present at the Pinestone I would have been tempted to shout: “Where is Jack? I’ll tell you where Jack is. He is by the swimming pool getting to know Marlene Dietrich better.”

Mr. C. Lutz,
Donald Ontario

The Outsider — Not, in hot water

By Will Jones

OK, this is going to sound like a rant but I figure I’ve been nice enough to you Canadians for long enough. I’ve been pleasant about your countryside and your food (although I’ve steered clear of your penchant for poutine). I’ve yarned favourably about your sport, cars and weather. I’ve penned platitudes about you people for so long that I’m fit to burst: like a high pressure water pipe with a tiny crack in it, I’m going drip, drip, drip, just ready to blow.

And that’s how my current bad mood began, with a dripping pipe. Drip, drip, drip it went from somewhere behind my bath, seeping into the ceiling of my downstairs washroom. It was undetectable at first but, just like my temper, it began to seep out.

Eventually, a bubble formed behind the thick layer of dark burgundy paint that the previous owner had thought fit to slather all over the washroom walls. I investigated. I popped said bubble and the water gushed out, revealing sodden drywall and a leak from above.

OK, I thought, let’s fix this thing. I jogged up to the bathroom to find the source of the problem, gauged the situation, and, after a couple more trips up and down, guesstimated that the leak was coming from behind the bath.

OK, I thought once again, let’s fix this thing; my mood still bright and breezy. And then it hit me. There was no way of getting behind the bath. The beige acrylic all-in-one bath and shower module installed in my home (by the previous

owner) was, I’m sure, a marvel akin to technologies such as the Space Shuttle on its invention in the late 1960s. Formed by layer upon layer of fibreglass into a granite hard shell, I can just picture the awe it inspired to a generation of Jetson wannabees. To me, on the other hand, it presented a problem. How to get to my leak?

Now, in the land of my birth every bath tub has a removable front panel. And I mean every bath tub, it’s the law. Whether a stand alone model or some fancy affair with whirlpool attachments and a multiple headed shower for that all over clean sandblasted type feeling, they all have a panel. Alright, may be it isn’t the law but it’s the norm. And, it should be the law, worldwide, because it allows you to peak behind the tub without having to rip the bathroom apart! But oh no, not in Canada. Here, you like your tubs moulded in one piece: forget that they might leak from time to time!

I approached the knowledgeable folk at our local hardware store and got the helpful advice: “You’ll have to take the washroom ceiling out.” FOR A LEAK! “Or, you could cut a hole through the side wall, from the stairway.” Again, FOR A LEAK!

COME ON!

I opted to do neither and instead I took the bath out. Oh did I take the bath out!

We (the father-in-law and I) ripped all of the timber edging strips from around the bath; pulled down the bulkhead and diagonal timber paneling (previous owner!!!) from above; disconnected the taps, shower attachment and associated

gubbins and heaved. Would the bath move? Like hell it would!

“They must have built the house around this freekin’ thing,” I sneered. And then it dawned on me that they had. Too tall to fit through the door, too wide to fit through the timber studs of the wall: they had put the bath in place and then built around it.

Genius!

Of the lowest order.

I hit it with a hammer. The reverberations temporarily deafened us but the bath stood firm. We drilled holes and attacked it with a hack saw: the effect, like cutting bedrock with a butter knife. We eventually went back to the hardware store and purchased power tools. Only then did the bath yield.

Slowly, we sawed the bath into chunks small enough to be carried from the room; all the while coughing and spitting fibreglass dust. The extraction, like some mammoth root canal operation, took an entire day but by the end of it my anger at the idiotic design of this Canadian tub had subsided; turning instead into elation at a job finally complete.

“Best check on that leak now,” said the father-in-law. “ARGHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!”

To be continued...



Highlander health

New ideas for recruiting doctors

County Council will consider subsidizing doctors' training in return for a commitment to practice here

By Jerry Grozelle

Haliburton County may be looking at a different way of recruiting doctors.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services CEO Paul Rosebush and Jim Mitchell, chair of the Haliburton Highlands Health Professionals Recruitment and Retention Committee, gave a brief overview of past efforts to recruit physicians to the county and proposed using a system that has worked well for Hastings County.

Previous recruitment methods have seen

limited success and proponents of the Hastings model believe it's time to step it up a notch.

The Hastings County success centres on an investment in education. The county offers subsidies of \$25,000 per year for doctors-in-training. In turn, those doctors sign a contract stating that they will practice for a minimum specified time in the county upon graduation.

Hastings County CAO Jim Pine says that the program has exceeded expectations, with 12 graduating physicians being attracted to Hastings County.

Rosebush proposed a similar Haliburton County program which would subsidize two medical students at \$25,000 each per year while they are in university or residency.

"Hastings County has rural communities just like Haliburton County, and they've had success with it" Rosebush said. "That's the point that really works for us. Everybody likes to see results. Hastings County has seen results." He added that it is a proven model that Haliburton County should explore. "I think there are a lot of stakeholders that could work with the county to come up with different ways to fund this type of initiative," Rosebush said.

Councillor Bill Davis said he has heard that some doctors would love to come to Haliburton County, but by the time they finish medical school they have a young family and they have concerns about limited local employment opportunities for their partners.

"We can't control the economy, but what we can do is if we know the professional background of the partner and what their interest is, we can work with the right groups to see if there are opportunities," Rosebush said. "It can be overcome to some degree if we've got some capacity in the community for that professional background."

Warden Murray Fearrey asked what would happen if the prospective recruit decided not to come to Haliburton County after being

funded through medical school. Rosebush said the contract would have to be worded in such a way to make it clear the recruit's responsibilities and have provisions for repayment of the funding. "You have to try to make sure that you cover every possible risk," Rosebush said. He added that if the county were to fund Ontario students there would be a better chance of them following through on their obligations. Mitchell pointed out that a 10 per cent penalty clause was included in the Hastings contracts.

Councillor Barb Reid asked about volunteer recruiter Sheila Redpath's progress. Mitchell said she had contacted about 200 resident doctors who had signed up for a conference and, after interviewing those people, had turned up four leads. Redpath's report on this process is due on December 12 when the Recruitment Committee has its next meeting.

Councillor Liz Danielsen, who is a member of the

Recruitment Committee, said: "After having been on the committee for a year now, I can see that it really is a dedicated group trying their hardest to get some results. I think it's time for a change in financial commitment, for us to have some level of success." She said she hoped council would take the proposal into consideration.

County Council members voted to defer the proposed recruitment strategy to budget deliberations for 2012.

Paul Rosebush

CEO of HHHS

"I think there are a lot of stakeholders that could work with the county to come up with different ways to fund this type of initiative."

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Highlander health

99% satisfaction with LTC homes HHHS board meeting covers a full agenda

The following is a report from the November 24 meeting of the HHHS Board of Directors.

Family members overwhelmingly satisfied with LTC

HHHS quality committee chair, Lisa Kerr, reported that the annual survey of Highland Woods and Highland Crest residents' family members showed "superlative" results, better even than last year's high scores. "Ninety-nine percent of family members are satisfied with the level of care," Kerr said. She congratulated staff and HHHS leadership for delivering such high standards.

Kerr also noted the committee's satisfaction with CEO Paul Rosebush's successful execution of the HHHS communications and community engagement plans. Rosebush's appearances in the newspapers, on radio and at community events have raised the profile of HHHS and its mission.

Province raising requirements for LTC entry

Prior to the meeting, the HHHS board was given a presentation from the Ontario Long Term Care Association. The presentation explained the Province's updated policies on LTC admissions, guidelines which are designed to delay the entry to long term care. Setting the bar higher for LTC admissions — potential residents must have no other options of living safely — will mean future residents with higher care requirements, but there are no provisions to increase the per diem rate paid to LTC homes to cover the cost of care. Board members noted that although this strategy may reduce the long term care cost per individual, from the perspective of the homes, costs per bed would increase as future residents would be less independent by the time they qualified for LTC.

Board members also noted that the Province's strategy does not consider the additional costs and burdens placed on family members, emergency rooms and critical care beds, and the community at large due to higher LTC admission standards.

On the positive side, wait lists for long term care homes have been reduced, with some centres actually needing additional residents in order to obtain the maximum available funding.

Trail Friends, Pool Committee send delegations

In a new twist for the HHHS board, directors received delegations from the Friends of the Rail Trail and the County Pool Initiative. Trail advocate Pamela Marsales asked for a board representative to join FoRT's Greenway Planning Committee, while Pool Committee representative, Harvey Bates, asked the board for a letter of support. The board chair advised that the requests would be considered.

Finances in good shape

Reporting on behalf of the Finance Committee, director Warren Arseneau said that reduction in sick time has had a significant and positive effect on the bottom line. He added that the budget is very sensitive to sick time, and small increases can easily put the hospital into a loss position. HHHS recently received funding for a telemedicine coordinator, and for quality improvement projects including fall-prevention and non-emergency transportation.

Board may get smaller

Chair Dale Robinson explained how it was difficult to recruit members to the board and that the Executive Committee would be considering a proposal to reduce the minimum number of directors to eight, to allow greater flexibility especially in the event of an emergency. Robinson also expressed disappointment that there is not greater representation on the board from women and people representing diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

CEO not able to attend

HHHS CEO Paul Rosebush was unable to attend the board meeting due to a family illness. The Highlander offers its sincere condolences to the Rosebush family on the death of Mr. Rosebush's father, Ward Harry Rosebush on November 25. Memorial donations may be made to Peterborough Regional Health Centre or to HHHS by calling 705-457-1580, or by visiting <http://hhhs-on.ca/FoundationHowToDonate.aspx>.

Community Cares

By Terrance Gavan

Christmas conjures manic depictions of giving and receiving.

This Yule-time's passion's passage presents the 'best and worst of times.'

Because, at this time of year, against a huge, marbled backdrop of excess, we hear stories of distress.

Because Christmas, by its hyperbolic existence, pits frothy exuberance against fundamental need.

And in so doing, it paradoxically allows introspective souls some time to dwell on the deeper meanings and root values of this singularly solemn season.

Last weekend Community Care of Haliburton reminded us that this Christmas season rallies introspection, and places others' needs above our own.

On Saturday afternoon, at the Minden Fast Lane, teams got together for the annual bowl-a-thon for Community Care.

Santa Claus came by to put his own unique imprimatur on the event, but the jolly red elf took second place to the pledges and the bowlers, who gathered to raise funds for Community Care.

Community Care's Resource Development Coordinator, Hilary Elia says the event raised \$2,400 and all of that will be headed to programs fostered by Haliburton County's Community Care organization.

"We raised that amount in one afternoon and we're very pleased with the outcome, and all the people who gave the pledges and their support," says Elia. "It was a lot of fun and we're very happy that Santa took time to drop by."

The monies will be directed toward Community Care's good work. Their mission statement: "To enable seniors and adults with disabilities and/or illnesses and their caregivers to remain independent at their place of residence for a longer period; and to cooperate with others in the County to create an awareness of client needs and enhance the quality of their life," is poignant enough.

However, at this time of year, it exudes a clarion call to arms, asking all Highlands residents to step outside our doors and our comfort zones and recognize that Christmas speaks to a commune of action.

Elia, apropos of all of that, says Community Care will be running several special dinners for seniors and interested residents in the upcoming weeks. "Cooking a full turkey is just not possible for a lot of our seniors," says Elia.

Today they won't have to. Today the Haliburton Legion and Community Care will be hosting the first of three communal dinners. "Stuart Baker Elementary School kids will be singing carols," says Elia. The dinner is served from 12 noon to 2 pm on Thursday, Dec 1.

"All of the dinners will be open to the community and they're not fund raisers," adds Elia. "Just a way of getting people together before Christmas."

Today's dinner will be repeated at the Wilberforce Legion on Friday, Dec 9 and at the Minden Legion on Thursday, Dec 15. The meals are all served between 12 noon 2 pm and they include a full turkey dinner with dessert and coffee.

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Highlander family

Stephanie Black and family: When life comes crashing down

By Erin Lynch

Just over a year ago Stephanie Black's life changed drastically. She was working at The Association for Community Living when she began having severe headaches. All her life she had suffered from bad headaches and visual migraines, but this time something was different.

"It felt like I had a really tight helmet on my head," says Stephanie. For four days she self-medicated with over-the-counter painkillers. When the pain didn't subside she visited her family doctor who recommended a CT Scan and then an MRI. On December 20, 2010 she was diagnosed with Arteriovenous Malformation, otherwise known as AVM, an abnormal connection between the arteries and veins in the brain that usually forms before birth.

Although she was born with this condition, Stephanie had never known there was a 75 percent chance she could have had a stroke; often, AVMs are only discovered during an autopsy.

An AVM rupture occurs because of pressure and damage to blood vessel tissue, allowing blood to leak into the brain or surrounding tissues and reducing blood flow to the brain. Cerebral AVMs occur in less than one percent of the population.

While digesting all the medical information, Stephanie realized that to do nothing was not an option. She now walked around with the knowledge she was a ticking time bomb.

"Most of the time I consider myself very lucky or blessed to have found my monster before it had a chance to hurt me," says Stephanie.

Treatment outcome uncertain

With limited treatment options, she chose to have a radiation procedure over alternatives which would have entailed open-brain surgery. The radiation procedure held the optimistic possibility of resolving the risk of an impending stroke. After months of medical appointments, Stephanie and her family hoped life would return to normal; plans were made to return to work. The radiation procedure took place in late June of 2011.

But instead of alleviating their strain, side-effects from the procedure only complicated the Blacks' increasingly stressful life. Within 12 hours of the procedure, Stephanie had her first seizure, a side effect of the treatment. To date it is unknown if the radiation treatment was successful because there is still too much swelling in her brain.

At the end of July 2011, Stephanie attempted to go back to work, but the seizures continued. She couldn't think clearly. As a support worker for the Association for Community Living she realized she couldn't work in that condition; too many vulnerable people depended on her.

As a result of the seizures her driver's license was suspended. The beautiful home that she and her husband, John, had built on isolated Kushog Lake Road has now become her domain and her cage.

"Every time I have a seizure the clock is set back six months before I can drive again," says Stephanie.

Until her diagnosis, Stephanie took college courses and attended seminars. She's an active woman who was continually learning and stimulating herself with new ideas and practices. She began the first play group in West Guilford



Stephanie, John, Amy, Dana and Brendan.

when her children were very young and then moved on to be the manager of the Ontario Early Years Centre in Haliburton, a position she held for many years.

A child advocate, Stephanie is the mother of three children. She is well-known and well-liked, involved in the community and the schools. Some of this came as a result of her son Brendan being diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome when he was five.

"One of the biggest challenges for me is how I define myself. Though being a wife and mother are extremely important to me, I put a lot of myself into being a social worker. Continuing my education and supporting others defined much of who I am as an adult. Though I am still fundamentally that person, I am no longer able to work professionally," says Stephanie.

Plans change

Growing up in Haliburton County, Stephanie and her husband John have built a rich community life together, beginning as high school sweethearts 22 years ago. At home they had put in a vegetable garden, built a chicken coop and grazed cattle on their 130 acres which they call Blackberry Fields. In this way, John and Stephanie thought they were sowing the seeds of a retirement hobby farm. However these days, self-sufficiency has become more of a necessity and next year the garden will be 10 times bigger. More chickens are now nestled in their coop; preserve recipes have been collected and trialed, the jars lined up like soldiers in an open kitchen cupboard in anticipation of cars lining up for farm gate sales.

Stephanie admits that the family's priorities have changed.

Sitting in their kitchen, John points to the sign, "The best things in life are not things."

"Things are less important," says Stephanie, "I was always socially aware, but now I am more conscious of how people live their lives. I feel much more empathetic."

And things have had to become less important. Previously Stephanie worked full time and now she is unable to work. John is self-employed and has had to take numerous days off to drive both her and Brendan to medical appointments, as Brendan has been diagnosed with a heart condition which will require surgery at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children in March.

"I have never in my entire life thought so much about myself and my own personal well-being," says Stephanie.

Although she admits that what gets done in a day depends on how she is feeling, she expresses concern over John as he can't stop. He is the family driver and sole provider. In addition, his own parents are sick and have been in hospital, so John is taking care of their farm as well as his own family. John recounts that a friend recently told him he had the strong shoulders needed to carry that load. John responded, "My shoulders may be strong but my knees are weak."

But through it all, life carries on for the Black family. They find humour in the things they can't change or control and then they adapt. A rich family life is the Blacks' driving force and that continues with hard work and dedication.

The house at Blackberry Fields is filled with family portraits. Stephanie admits to wanting to capture this time in their lives, since her future is so desperately uncertain. "I want my children to remember me as I am now."

Senior highlanders

Visible Voices Through the looking glass

By Stephen Patrick

The figures are staggering. Estimates are that 70 to 75 percent of long-term care residents suffer from some form of depression. But those figures are perhaps not so surprising. The emotional and physical upheaval in a senior's life that the move to a long-term care facility causes is enormous: his or her entire life changes. Much of the daily control over one's life is gone: privacy is reduced, home icons lost. The very landscape of life is irreparably changed.

Last year Bell Canada launched the Bell Mental Health Initiative in an effort to reduce the stigma of mental illness and to support imaginative local programs that seek to provide help to those with mental health issues. The company pledged \$50 million (over five years). Through their Bell Let's Talk Community Fund, grants up to \$50,000 are provided each year to community organizations, hospitals and agencies committed to improving access to mental health care. This year Bell received over 400 applications for help in Ontario alone: 15 were approved, including a grant of \$36,400 to our own Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

The HHHS program will continue the work of Fay Wilkinson's Visible Voices initiative, this time subtitled Through the Looking Glass, "a two-part program that will explore depression with seniors living in Highland Wood and Hyland Crest long-term care facilities, through artwork and stories." Janine Burk, HHHS Long-Term Program Manager, said that 20 residents of Hyland Crest and 10 from Highland Wood would participate.

Fay Wilkinson, Haliburton's well-known Expressive Arts Consultant and Educator, will head the program, along with Tammy Rea, Haliburton Media Arts video maker. The first part of the program, called Depression, Connection, Expression, will see the seniors participate in "individualized expressive



Bell Canada presents a commemorative plaque celebrating the Visible Voices grant. From left: Elizabeth Boxall, Bell Haliburton; Janine Burk, HHHS Program Director; Visible Voices' Fay Wilkinson; and Haliburton Media Arts' Tammy Rea.

arts experiences for a total of 20 weeks. The approach will include visual art, sculpture, storytelling, sound, movement, photography and fibre art," according to Ms. Wilkinson.

The second part, Reflection, Dialogue, Insight will feature video and audio recordings of the seniors and their work which will be presented to audiences in schools and community groups like Rotary, the Legion, university women's clubs and so on. "Those audiences will then be invited to respond to what they see through the creation of their own art work. Then, in turn, those pieces will be shown to the seniors who took part in Visible Voices, thus completing the communication circle."

Fay Wilkinson is the first to admit that this can be very edgy and difficult work. "Trust is absolutely essential," she told The Highlander. "This is very delicate work, and it won't be easy in any way. Our experience with Visible Voices programs in the past has shown just how challenging it can be."

Ms. Wilkinson is also quick to thank the HCDC and the Arts Council for their support a few years ago that allowed Visible Voices to flourish, and she also thanked Fleming College and U-Links for their subsequent support. "And we're also very grateful to the HHHS and the long-term care staff for allowing us in.

"These seniors will be working with me one-on-one, making art together as a means of expression. But to clarify, what we are doing is not therapy, although it certainly may be therapeutic; we know that creating art and using imagination has strong beneficial effects on our physical and mental health.

"Expressive arts in this context is different. We're making art work for us, not necessarily making works of art. Fibre art, music, movement, sound, are all involved. And we'll partner with Haliburton Media Arts to film the process.

"We're not trying to fix anything; we're just trying to let voices be heard. We're aiming to use this art-making as a gang plank to connect, express

and reflect and have meaningful community dialogue which may result in some insights, shine a light on the labels we place on people and what they feel about that. So seniors can make their voices visible and shine."

When asked about the problems in recruiting the seniors, given the stigma surrounding depression and mental health issues, Ms. Wilkinson said, "Yes, that will be a factor, certainly. I'm very conscious of the necessity of confidentiality, where I can build an environment of safety, where nothing will be used without their permission, and where they can withdraw whenever they wish."

Ms. Wilkinson, along with Janine Burk, will be spending the next month and a half interviewing and selecting the participants with a view to starting the formal process in the New Year.

Aging Well Surviving Christmas

Dear Penny,

The holidays are coming and just the thought of it is exhausting. My son and his family (wife and two toddlers) and my daughter (and her two teenagers) will all arrive and I know I'm supposed to be thrilled but it's gotten to be too much of an effort for me to enjoy it. Even putting clean sheets on all the beds tires me out just thinking about it. Then I have all that laundry to do when they leave. And towels for everyone. They will be here for the 24th and 25th so it isn't really too long and I shouldn't complain. The cooking takes days and everyone raves about my pie but I'm thinking of buying a frozen crust this year. My son always offers to help cook but the only thing he can make is pancakes and anyway I like my turkey. My daughter doesn't offer. She thinks she's on holiday. I'm picky about my kitchen so I end up cleaning it up myself. So what can I do to make it easier this year?

Tired Tilly

Dear Tired Tilly,

You are not alone. While the Christmas holiday season is supposed to be a joyous time and most folks look like they are sailing through it on a gentle wave of smiles, the fact is that many people find it a very difficult time of year.

Expectations are high. Demands are great. Togetherness can be stressful and exhaustion sets in early.

So for starters, tell your kids that this year you want to enjoy every moment you can with them and to be sure you're up for it, you are making some changes in your usual routine.

Ask your children to bring their own linens. Yes, they can make their beds when they arrive and take their soiled laundry home with them when they leave. Towels too.

Next, I suggest you divide the menu and the duties. If your son makes great pancakes, tell him he's in charge of breakfast on the 25th.

For Christmas Eve, pick one dish you would like to make yourself (the turkey is probably easiest) and suggest your daughter-in-law bring her two favorite side dishes. Have your daughter bring the desert. It doesn't matter if she makes it or buys it—as long as she brings it.

Ask the teenagers to prepare a salad of their choice. To avoid a mess in the kitchen, tell them to prepare their salad at home and bring along a salad dressing they can add at the last minute.

Lunch can be a buffet of leftovers with two fresh loaves of bread from a local bakery and a store-bought pie or box of cookies. Yes, store-bought. You will be surprised at how good desert can taste when you don't have to make it yourself.

The teenagers can also be responsible for planning snacks. That's probably something they'll be happy to do.

Don't forget to parcel out clean-up duties too. You might make a clean-up chart and ask everyone to pick a job. And remember, the clean-up does not have to be perfect. After everyone leaves, you can take as long as you like to finish anything that is not up to your usual standards.

The point is, you have to distribute the work—all of it—and take the time to take it easy. That means staying out of the kitchen and leaving the heavy lifting to the young folks.

I'm betting everyone will pitch in wonderfully well—IF you prepare them for it now.

Good luck and Merry Christmas.

Readers, if you have any other questions—about your mobility, your comfort, or just about getting through your day more safely and easily, I want to hear them. For real-life answers you can use, write to penny@haliburtonhighlander.ca.



By Penny Brown

Senior highlanders

Beware computer fraudsters bearing gifts

The Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is warning all residents to stay clear of telephone calls offering tech support for computers.

The local OPP is receiving numerous complaints from people living in Haliburton County, reporting suspicious phone calls they are receiving indicating that there is a problem with their computer.

Fraudsters are cold calling individuals offering to solve slow browsing or virus problems. “The schemers offer to repair the computer over the Internet, which can involve the installation of software,” says the OPP release. “In some cases, the fraudster has asked for remote access to computers, which allows the representative to access the computer, from another computer, to install the software, or repair the operating system.”

Obviously police are telling residents to hang up and report the calls. Under no circumstance should any resident offer access to his/her personal computer.

The OPP reports that payment for the software or repair service is handled via credit card. “Credit card charges have ranged from \$35.00 to \$469.00 and are being debited by banks in Germany, Latvia, Russia, Ukraine, Mauritius, United States and Iceland,” states the OPP release.

“The OPP remind you that allowing an unknown third party to remotely download software or remotely access a computer carries inherent risks. Key loggers or other malicious software could be installed to capture sensitive data such as online banking user names and passwords, bank account information, identity information.”

Other variations of the scam also involve consumers responding to popup ads online offering anti-virus software.

These popup ads are often referred to as “scareware.” They are almost exclusively designed to infiltrate the computer and hard drive.

Bottom line? If your computer ain't broke, don't fix it. If it is? Take it to a pro.

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* While game console, all add-ons and games not included.

Around the county



Santa Claus is coming to town



Both Minden and Haliburton held their Santa Claus Parades last weekend.

On Friday night in Haliburton, the exceptionally warm weather ensured that both sides of Highland Street were packed three-deep from the LCBO to Bwana Johns. In Minden on Saturday morning, the balmy weather continued packing the downtown with well over 700 onlookers. **Photos by Terrance Gavan.**



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Around the county



Handel's Messiah opened on Saturday evening at St. George's Anglican Church. Melissa Stephens directed Toronto's Talisker Players orchestra and the Highlands Chorus in Handel's famous Oratorio. **Photos by Terrance Gavan.**

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Highlander environment

County's dark skies need protection



By Will Jones

We have started to eat into the darkness hours with the use of artificial light, and it is only now that we're beginning to discover the detrimental effect this is having on us and the wildlife around us." Robert Dick, Chair of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) Light Pollution Abatement Committee

Have you ever stood staring up into the heavens on a clear dark night and wondered what it would be like if there were no stars? Well, not if there were no stars but if you couldn't see the stars: if something blotted this wondrous view from sight?

This may sound ridiculous, but if you've ever been in the city and happened to peer skyward on a similarly clear night, you'll have realized that there is by no means any guarantee of the glorious twinkling display that we are afforded here in Haliburton County.

The artificial light from developed areas is responsible for blotting out our view of the night sky. Light pollution, as the scientists like to call it, pervades the darkness and reflects off particles in the atmosphere; it steals the darkness, ruins the view for star gazers and — get this — potentially harms our health, too.

Robert Dick, Chair of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) Light Pollution Abatement Committee, and founding member of the Canadian Scotobiology Research Group, is concerned about the ever-increasing amount of light pollution from outdoor artificial lighting.

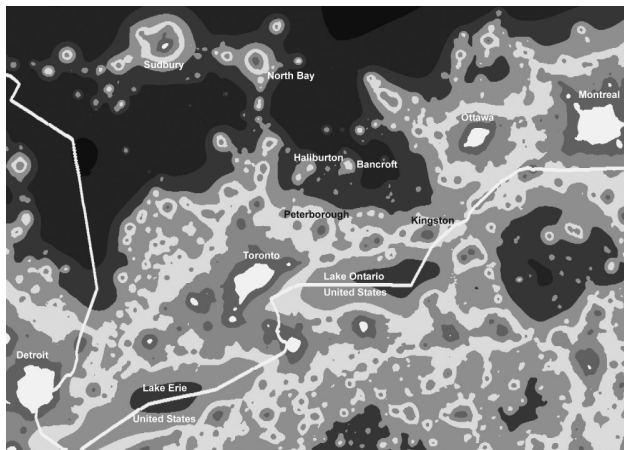
"We are only just beginning to understand the importance of darkness," he explains. "We used to think that all light was good and darkness, the night, was merely a time we had to endure. Nothing could be more wrong."

Dick explains that while our bodies (and those of animals, too) have evolved to accommodate starlight and moonlight, they need proper darkness to regenerate and rejuvenate. Darkness, he and Scotobiology colleagues have proven, effectively enables our bodies to turn off their outward senses and concentrate on what's happening internally.

"All biological life has evolved in tune with the day/night contrast," says Dick, "but in the last 100 years we have begun to really change that. We have started to eat into the darkness hours with the use of artificial light, and it is only now that we're beginning to discover the detrimental effect this is having on us and the wildlife around us."

It is with this new knowledge that Dick and colleagues at the RASC have realized the importance of maintaining darkness wherever possible, and have begun to set up dark sky preserves. Areas such as parts of Jasper National Park in Alberta, Ontario's Bruce Peninsula National Park and Kejimikujik National Park in Nova Scotia are all designated Dark Sky Preserves. However, while it is good that they are being maintained free of artificial light, it is the populated areas that really interest Dick. Areas like Haliburton County and the swath of land known as the Land Between.

"Historically, settlements moved from the south, gradually populating further north, turning wilderness into farmland," says Dick. "However, when they got to the Canadian Shield,



the farming became difficult and this rocky land with poor soils effectively stopped large scale migration northwards."

There were obviously some hardy individuals who stuck it out, and settlements such as those in Haliburton County are testament to that. But from Parry Sound in the west to Frontenac in the east, population density is much lower than further south. And it is here that Dick thinks we may be able to act to preserve our dark skies.

"National parks are a great place to start preserving dark skies but they are often remote, so acting quickly in populated regions like yours, which don't currently have too much light pollution, is very important. It is here that we can make the most impact and have the biggest effect on peoples' lives."

Dick has already talked to communities in Tobermory

and within Jasper National Park. He's carried out an audit in Jasper to highlight where they need to act and what they should do to preserve their dark skies. And now, Dick has his sights trained on Haliburton County.

"I have been contacted by individuals in your community already," he says, "but I need the support of the greater community in order to make this work."

"The way I see it is people — both locals and visitors — love Haliburton County because of its rural qualities and closeness to nature. Now, I'm not saying people should stop coming to the area; nor that there should be no development of the population centres. But, if we keep building without thinking about how we use artificial light, then we'll permanently change the environment around us, to the detriment of nature and ourselves."

Solutions are not hard to find: downward-pointing street lights; the elimination of external spotlights that illuminate building frontages; less use of general outdoor lighting around homes, or if this lighting is necessary, the use of red or amber outdoor lighting rather than bright white, which is particularly bad for us and animals.

Dick wants local government to act. He is happy to come and talk to those making the decisions; to inform them of what can be done and how they can ensure that light pollution is kept to a minimum. Actions, he says, that cost little but which would have a big impact.

"The trouble is that government, whether it's municipal, provincial or federal, is very busy and a guy talking about dark skies isn't high on the agenda of things to do. That's why I look to get community support before approaching those in positions of power," says Dick. "If local groups come together, if taxpayers voice their opinion, then the policy makers are more inclined to act."

Canada is both blessed and cursed, it seems. We have such large expanses of unpopulated land, and some of the most pristine dark sky areas in the world, meaning that we have a wealth of dark skies compared to most countries. However our urban populations are now once again on the move — this time in search of recreation rather than work — and unless we do something to ensure we limit our light pollution, we'll lose those dark skies.

We'll lose the starry nights that we so love and we'll potentially be harming our health and that of the nature which surrounds us.

Highlander women

Shooting down fear: Women-only gun practice an exhilarating experience

Experienced and new shooters enjoy camaraderie at the range

By Jerry Grozelle

Bad weather wasn't enough to put a damper on the third annual Operational Shooting Association Women's Day, held last month at the MilCun Training Centre. Rain gear and umbrellas were added to hearing protection and safety glasses as essential gear on the firing line. Despite the wind and cool temperatures, the event was a huge success, evident by the abundant smiles, high-fives and women posing for photos with their targets.

Women from as far as Ottawa, North Bay, Toronto, Kingston and Barrie came to Haliburton County's MilCun Training Centre near Minden to participate in the event. Several local women also took advantage of the opportunity to experience a day of shooting with other women.

The day began with safety and proper firearm handling instructions, before the women went to the range to shoot tactical rifles and handguns. Experience with firearms among the participants ranged from extensive to none. The experienced shooters acted as range safety officers and coaches for the new shooters.

The event was organized by Linda Miller (the Mil part of MilCun), while Keith Cunningham, her partner, and a team of men helped with setup and provided support. For the most part, the men stayed out of the way and let the women run the event under Miller's guidance.

The tactical rifle shooting was with what are commonly called "black rifles." Pistols were semi-autos in .22, 9mm and .40 calibre. Targets were paper and steel plate. Sponsorship, gifts and prizes were provided by a number of businesses and organizations familiar to those in the shooting sports. In addition to prizes and give-aways, some of the sponsors also brought items for sale specifically for women, a gesture that Miller said was very much appreciated by the participants.

Experienced and new shooters alike had an enjoyable day in spite of the weather. "I'd be hard pressed to tell you if it was the new shooters that enjoyed it more or the experienced shooters, who got to do a little coaching for the first time," Miller said. "They had an absolute blast. There was one who is a police officer — she's an excellent shot, but it's the first time she's ever coached and she was just like to the moon, she was so excited.

"The program in the afternoon was to shoot pistols on paper targets, and then to go over to the steel range as each group looked as though they were ready for an additional challenge," Miller said. "But the weather was so nasty that I gave them all the choice to go to the cabin and get warm, or to go over to the steel range instead. They all chose to shoot. A lot of the participants are not really outdoorsy, they're just women who are interested in finding out about guns. It was really good to see that they were that spunky and that interested."

One of the local participants was Linda Mintz, from the Gooderham area.

"It was my first experience; something I've wanted to do for many, many years," Mintz said.

Mintz said her earliest experience with a firearm was an unpleasant one. Her father let her shoot a .303 calibre rifle at about age 10. "It knocked me off my feet and terrified me," she said. The desire to shoot a gun didn't resurface until years later. "Living in a county where hunting is very prominent, I wanted to at least learn how to handle guns, not to hunt animals, but to know how to work my way around them. So, last Saturday at Women's Day was my first experience and I'm hooked. It was very professional, very educational, that's what I liked — safety first, all the training in the morning.

"The training was phenomenal and I've bought in, full force. I'm definitely eager to go back and learn more. It



was wonderful. It's a course I think every woman should be involved in, at least to know the logistics and to get past the fear."

Mintz said learning to shoot pistols was the highlight of the day for her. She overcame the fear of guns she has had since that episode with the .303.

The quality of the instruction really impressed Mintz. "Linda Miller is a great individual. I had a real fear and I overcame it on the weekend thanks to Linda and the other advanced women. It was basically one-on-one mentoring through the whole thing, once we got out on the range. We were able to take our time and it was just fantastic.

"It's great to see a bunch of women together enjoying a sport. It was very serious, but light too — with lots of laughs and great education. I think if Linda wasn't who she was, it might not have come about for me.

"Next year it'll be my daughter and I and whoever I can pull together to get past the fear of handling a gun," she said. "I'm enthusiastic about getting my daughter involved."

Mintz said her husband is an avid hunter, but when he got his guns out she was uncomfortable. "But not now," she said. "We could enjoy it [target shooting] together."

Mintz says her husband has benefited from her experience,



even though he wasn't there. "He's thrilled," she said. "He couldn't be happier." She said he has tried for years to get her interested in firearms, but there was too much anxiety and nervousness. "He's more than qualified to show me, but I just couldn't do it," she admitted. The women instructors and participants gave Mintz the confidence to put her fears behind her and it gave her the opportunity to try something she might not have attempted otherwise.

Although hunting is not something she is interested in doing at this point, Mintz says she plans to take the Possession Acquisition Licence Course (which is required to purchase, borrow or otherwise acquire a firearm), as well as the Hunter Safety Training course. "I don't know if I'll become a hunter, but the target stuff, definitely," she said.

Three days after the event, Mintz was still pumped about the experience. "I was flying," she said. "My feet still haven't hit the floor."

The MilCun Training Center provides training for tactical marksmen such as police and security forces, competition shooters as well as recreational shooters and hunters. Keith Cunningham also provides complete gunsmith services, including building custom rifles. More information is available at www.milcun.com.

Highlander arts

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State of the Arts

By Victoria Ward



Farewell November

While many have been enjoying these unseasonably warm days, there are those among us who can only think about one thing: climate change. Unlike many people here, I love November because I love that first snowfall, mostly the ‘icing sugar’ kind that make the forests look like etchings. This year however, I only got my ‘graphite’ scenery for one brief morning because November has been eerily lovely.

When people talk about the climate they usually refer to things that are changing: migrating birds, lake ice and so forth. These changes are growing exponentially and rapidly.

Environmental issues can plague an artist just like regular folk. Such urgency, like that associated with the climate however, can become a very tricky subject. An artist who depicts our species as negligent and downright in denial can risk their work being used for propaganda. As an example, look at the work of famed photographer Ed Burtynsky.

A few years ago, my partner had an art exhibition in Haliburton and during it, Burtynsky’s film *Manufactured Landscapes* was shown. It addressed issues of land transformation through industrial means. Burtynsky is widely known for his drop-dead gorgeous shots of tailing ponds in Elliot Lake and molten smelting runoff in Sudbury. His focus was industry and its vast impact on our planet.

Fast forward several years later and TV promo ads for the tar sands uncannily imitate his aesthetic. So, while Burtynsky was trying to highlight how we transform our landscape to suit our needs through industry, and that claim is still valid and important, his work has now become imitated by the very industry he was drawing critical attention to in the first place. In essence, Burtynsky’s statement about the environment has been co-opted. His work might never again have the same resonance.

Recently there was a conference in the Netherlands regarding rising sea levels. The Dutch, being the forward thinking types that we know them to be, discussed possible evacuations at home. The seas are rising twice as fast as once thought. Something is happening and we have to adapt now. This is the message of climate change: it’s urgent, the examples are real and tactile, and it’s really scary. Just ask anyone who lives on an atoll and is now walking around in ankle deep water.

How then does art react to this cataclysm of urgency and fear? Generally these worldwide events can drown art out (pardon the pun). It took artists who escaped the Holocaust and the horrors inflicted on European nations during the Second World War some time before they could put brush to canvas (De Kooning, Rothko) or music to instrument (Ligeti, Penderecki). Reflection is a necessary tool for an artist to grapple with the ‘unbelievable’.

But how does one deal with an ongoing tragedy?

In the early Middle Ages, painters such as Flemish geniuses Pieter Bruegel and Hieronymous Bosch created hell-scapes that reflected a world gone mad due to constant war and plague. The Church was their society’s main institution and it supported the artists because those same artists (unwittingly or not) helped keep the population afraid and obedient. Today the media and industry work much the same way and will use an artist’s work to their advantage, especially if the work has heightened their brand awareness in some way. An artist’s message won’t be their main concern.

Trying to keep pace with current issues while creating important work is a balance that will remain challenging for most of us. And, if November has to become the new October, I can adapt because, it seems, I have to.

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Sports news

PardontheEruption

Nifty grudges with Joe Kapp and Angelo Mosca



By Terrance Gavan

It began with a flower.

It ended with a Springer-esque You Tube moment that put our largely ignored and otherwise low-key Canadian Football League (CFL) on the world map for the first time since... well, ever.

Here's the thing about détente.

It's tricky. It's nuanced.

A legendary broke nose, butt-end-mean, and outspoken quarterback may desire, on the basis of sheer audacity and world peace, to end a bloodless 50-year-old grudge with a token.

Indeed, in a world filled with bitterly entrenched feudal warfare, it is almost awe inspiring to watch one man approach another with a memento of salubrious surrender.

Especially if it's done on a stage, in front of an audience of peers, and several hundred professional cameramen.

But perhaps – and we're talking with the benefit of hindsight here knuckleheads – the quarterback ought first to consider, with due diligence and care, just what kind of token to bring to the armistice.

For instance, when we are dealing with a really old, mean, ugly and cantankerous former Tiger Cat defensive lineman,

it may be wise to construe, very carefully, exactly how to approach such a rapprochement.

For instance. If you are attempting to appease a former wife, girlfriend or lover, perhaps the donation of a single red rose, held tenderly and proffered without fear, remorse or rancor, might suffice to transmit the appropriate sentiment: "I'm sorry, let's call it a day, and move on."

I think we learned last week, that in the case of deeply held football feuds, which go way deeper than Hatfield and McCoy, or Gotti and Castellano, tender petals doth convey the wrong sentiment altogether.

And so, when former BC Lion (and Minnesota Viking) quarterback Joe Kapp, 73, strode over to former Ticat defensive end Angelo Mosca, also 73, last Friday at a CFL banquet, with a white flower in his hand, and attempted to hand it to his old enemy, as a token of appeasement?

All hell broke loose.

First Mosca told Kapp: "Stick it up your a..."

Kapp approached again and stuck the flower in the vicinity of Mosca's face.

Angie Mosca, a successful restaurateur in Hamilton, then lashed out with his cane. Yes, his cane. He bopped Kapp in the head, white petals flew, and Joe Kapp, the aforementioned cantankerous old sum-bit' reeled back and popped Mosca with two very serious septuagenarian right hooks, which connected with devastating finality and floored the former lineman. Score it as a one-two punch combination TKO.

I'm sure you've seen it. It's got about 14 trillion hits on You Tube and it made the sports highlight reels in countries all over the world. It fronted the sports pages of London's Daily Mail. It went huge in Japan.

It put Canada on the map. It gave us our very own Andy Warhol moment.

Those Friday festivities are now fully entrenched in Grey Cup lore. The fight between twin septuagenarians overshadowed the fact that BC beat Winnipeg in the Grey Cup on Sunday.

What were Joe and Angelo fighting about? Now that's a good question, made scarier by the fact that I was nine at the time and still remember the circumstances.

Back in November, 1963 Angelo Mosca came in late and low with a devastating hit on a defenseless Willie 'The Wisp' Fleming, the league's best running back. Fleming left the game with an upper body injury and the Ticats went on to win the Grey Cup. Kapp and Fleming and the province of British Columbia were outraged.

Fast forward 48 years.

After the fisticuffs that You Tube tape rolled on. Near the end of the eight minute roll is an interesting exchange.

Joe Kapp told the audience that he talked to Willie The Wisp who is alive and well and living in Las Vegas.

"Angelo," said Kapp. "Willie told me to tell you that he named his dog Angelo. And he kicks the s*** out of it every day."

That tidbit included, just in case you got the wrong idea and think the feud is over.

Kapp went over to shake hands with Mosca at the end of the speeches and Mosca declined.

And if you're chuckling just a little too hard at this.

Try to remember how many grudges you're currently holding in that overflowing noggin of yours.

Now, try to remember that this ain't really that funny.

In fact, it's downright sad.

But it sure does help to explain oddities like the Middle East, Northern Ireland and Afghanistan. Don't it?

This Christmas peeps? Do yourself a big favor.

Let. It. Go.

But say it with chocolate... not flowers.

Your soaring Red Hawk's schedule

By Terrance Gavan

Your weekly round up of Red Hawk sports:

Thursday, Dec 1 - Red Hawk varsity girls' hockey home opener versus Fenelon Falls Falcons at 2 pm at the Dysart Arena. The Senior girls volleyball team travels to Cobourg East for a tourney that begins at 1 p.m.

Friday, Dec 2 - Varsity boys' hockey team travels to St. Thomas Aquinas for a 2:15 pm game.

Monday, Dec 5 - Varsity boys hockey host I.E. Weldon at the Dysart Arena on Monday night at 7:15 pm

Wednesday, Dec 7 - Junior and senior Volleyball tourney at the Red Hawks Nest beginning at 1 pm The Hal High wrestling team travels to Quinte for a tournament.

Thursday, Dec 8 - Senior and junior basketball Hawks play host to Crestwood Secondary School with the doubleheader starting at 2:30 pm in the Hawks' Nest. Hal High varsity girls hockey team hosts Lindsay Collegiate at 2 pm at Dysart Arena.

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Sports news

Hawks dazzling in home opener

By Terrance Gavan

Hawks 3 – Campbellford 1

We have three takeaways from the Red Hawks hockey home opener against the Campbellford High Flames.

First, the 2011-12 version of Red Hawk hockey is slick, tricked-up and tickety-boo from Tack to tip.

Second, Brett Yake is wearing an appropriate number this year – the number is nine, an unintentional homage to another pair of nines, Cody Hodgson and Matt Duchene. For the record, Duchene and Hodgson are twin towers of NHL prowess that, like Brett Yake, first iced their prodigious wares at the old Dysart Barn.

And finally, we are reminded by the sheer conciseness of the compact, diminutive and belligerent Hawks that, in hockey, largesse is not defined as a pair of 6'4" 200 pound defensemen – rather, largesse refers to the distribution of the puck to the open man.

Apropos of none of that, both the Hawks and the visiting Campbellford High Flames came out very tentatively in the first frame last Thursday afternoon (Nov 23).

Coach Ron Yake said that his young charges were probably suffering from opening day yips, which led to subsequent board-hand and slough-foot issues early in the contest.

Adding to the mix, the place was 'Jello pudding-packed' with schoolmates, who had been rewarded with the afternoon off to help cheer on the Hawks in the season's home-opener.

"Well that first period was not pretty," smiled Yake after the game. "I said to the guys at the end of the first period, 'that's probably the toughest period of hockey you'll play until the playoffs,' because that first period was a test."

"They haven't played together as a team before. You've got the school out watching and they're nervous and, you know, the hands just weren't there. It got better in the second period."

Indeed it did. The scoreless first period was followed by an up-tempo second period, which featured the magic hands of the aforementioned 'Yake The Younger.' Brett, Ron's son,

scored the first two goals of the game and the twin tallies served to pop the cork on that bundle of nervous energy.

Hands relaxed, skates quickened and the pressure seemed to lift from the young Red Hawks squad. A goal or two will do that for a young team.

The first tally was a thing of beauty and came after Brett popped free with the puck on the end of his stick, near the center ice stripe. He drew away from the crowd and when he found himself alone in front of the Campbellford goaltender, he nifty-doodled a slow feint forehand, before dragging the puck backhand to roof the puck on the open side.

Brett's second goal came during a crease-side scramble and ended up as the eventual game-winner.

Ryan Hunter nailed down the insurance goal, also in the second period. Assists went to Nate Feir, Zach Boice, Jordan Howe and Chris Hall.

Lucas Peters scored the only goal on the power play for the visiting Flames.

Hawks fifth year goaltender Andrew Elia was stellar in the crease for the Hawks, and stood strong in the face of several power play opportunities late in the game. He also made some timely stops in the hurly-burly, wide open and flowing second frame.

Hawks played very well in odd-men situations and their penalty kill units played lights out, except for one lapse with a man down in the second period.

Hard to get the coach to glamour up on his own kid, but on this day we were pressed to get a comment



Three Red Hawks park on the doorstep, waiting for a rebound last Thursday in Hal High's home opener versus Campbellford Secondary School Flames. Hawks won 3-1.

Photo by Terrance Gavan.

on Brett's stellar debut as a bona fide team leader.

"Well, he had a nervous first period, and things weren't going our way until it opened up in that second period," chuckled Yake. "Yeah, he [Brett] played well and that first one was a pretty good goal."

Brett led the team in scoring last year, but he had a bundle of help via other Red Hawk Kawartha top ten scorers, Ian Bottum, Mark Vasey, Ashton Hailey and Scott Griffith.

This year, it will be up to Brett to step into that void and lead the team, something that Yake Sr. alluded to last Thursday.

"Brett is going to have to have good games like that to help our team this year, but we have a lot of young guys capable of stepping up," said Yake.

Upcoming games - Wed Nov 30: Hawks varsity hockey boys are at home, facing off against Kenner Collegiate at 3:50 pm in the Dysart Barn.

Monday, Dec 5: Varsity boys hockey host I.E. Weldon at the Dysart Arena at 7:15 pm.



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Sports news

Nicole Honderich captures gold

By Terrance Gavan

Paul Klose and Dan Fockler are wrestling with numbers this year.

The Hal High wrestling coaches are accustomed to dealing with a large turnout of student athletes. Wrestling at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School is a popular and successful sport.

This year, mat attendance has flagged in the early going. But that's not necessarily a bad thing. Klose and Faulkner have more time for the dedicated numbers that do show up to practice in the multi-purpose room upstairs in the Hal High athletic complex.

The bad news is that Hal High may not have enough representation in existing weight classes to forge any team results at wrestling tournaments.

Klose said this week that the athletes he and Fockler have

been working with are dedicated and very talented.

And they do have a good blend of rookie and veteran talent this season. The lower numbers will mean a more focused training and workout regimen.

Last week that one-on-one attention paid some sweet dividends as four separate Red Hawk wrestlers brought back medals from an early season rookie tourney in Cobourg.

Nicole Honderich went undefeated and captured first place in her weight class. Matt Sexsmith and Shelby Smith placed second and Zanna Zondervan placed third.

"It was a very quick, low key tourney," said Klose. "They all wrestled really well."

About 15 members of the Red Hawk team were slated to attend a tournament at Peterborough's Kenner Collegiate but as the paper went to press that date was in limbo because of weather.

"I'm phoning athletes all day today (Tuesday was a snow

day) and we'll have to see if that tournament in Kenner is a go or not. But right now it doesn't look good weather-wise," said Klose on Tuesday afternoon.

Klose and Faulkner will be concentrating on individual performances this season and they have an existing base of very accomplished athletes, several of whom have already participated at the very top levels of their sport.

Zane Zondervan, Kayla Gardiner, Bailey Walker and Lily Coneybeare all performed at elite levels last season.

Klose said that he and Fockler are looking forward to the upcoming season.

In addition to the Kenner date on Nov 30, the Red Hawk wrestlers are traveling to Quinte for a tourney on Dec 7.

And on Friday, Dec 16 the Red Hawks host their own tourney at the Hawks Nest.

"We're excited about that tourney and we're already preparing for it," said Klose.

Coaching legend Irv Sternberg returns

By Terrance Gavan

The junior varsity basketball team is desperately short on veteran players, but that deficiency may be offset this season by the comeback of the old coach Irv Sternberg, who is returning to the court wars this season after an extended hiatus.

Sternberg is the vice-principal at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School and we're guessing that the seven year itch, based on the old saw, "once a coach always a coach," set in at some point last spring.

Sternberg has never been far away from the program and he's attended a great many basketball games over the past several years.

That's really good news for the young Hawks, because the most important ingredient for skills development in junior basketball is coaching. Lots of coaching. As in, "the more the merrier."

Junior varsity basketball players thrive in an open milieu of intense one-on-one mentoring. Coaching at the JV level requires a sound knowledge of the basic skills. Dribbling,

passing, shooting, and the art of a tough man-to-man defense are intrinsic to player development.

Like the directions on your favorite hair product, coaching at this level requires a lot of "rinse and repeat," stock drills hammered into willing and open young noggins. Give and go, pick and roll, back door and boxing out in the paint are all fundamental building blocks of the game.

You learn these skills on the playground, and you learn why they're important in junior varsity.

This year Sternberg joins entrenched junior coaches Paul Longo and Martin Gage as part of a tri-partite think-tank.

"We'll be working with three co-coaches this season," said Longo on Tuesday. "We're really young and we've only got three returning players." Gone are team stalwart and big inside threat, Zach Cox, and the ball control and shooting savvy of Louis Ferracuti, Tanner Hamilton and Tanner Ballantyne.

Longo thinks that the co-coaching tandem will wear well as the season progresses.

"We've got six players in grade 10 and nine grade 9s," said

Longo. "We're green but we're also pretty excited. The guys are working hard in practice and we've got a pretty solid skill base there."

Del Meyers and Preston Roberts return to the team this season and both have been seeing double-duty, helping the senior Hawks with five-on-five drills at scrimmages. "We've also added a new Grade 10, Trevor Perry, a transfer with some ball experience," added Longo.

The coaching triumvirate will seek to bring that potential to a simmer this season.

"We've got lots of grade nines who have been playing Grade 6, 7 and 8 ball and we're pretty excited about the season," said Longo. "We've been practicing, getting ready and we want to organize a home tourney in February."

Yesterday's scheduled season opener at Adam Scott Collegiate was cancelled, and so it appears that both seniors and juniors will be opening their seasons at home versus Crestwood Secondary School on Dec 8.

The Thursday twin bill is slated to start at 2:30 pm with the juniors playing the second game just after the senior tilt.

TimBr Mart Midget A's triumph in Bradford

The TimBr Mart Highland Storm Midget A team traveled to the Nottawasaga Inn for the Bradford tournament last weekend. The Storm played two games Friday.

First they played Center Wellington, where they won 5-2. Goals went to Tanner Ballantyne (2), Tanner Hamilton, Mike Dack and Nick Hunter, with assists to Jacob Harrison (2), Tanner B, Tanner H, Nick, Stewart Chalk and Drake Montgomery. Standing strong between the pipes and making some smart defensive plays for the Storm was Braydon Frost for the win.

The second game we played the hometown Bradford

Bulldogs, and the Storm was once again on the winning end of a 2-1 score. Goals were by Donovan MacInnes and Drake with the lone assist to Jordan Howe.

Only one game was slated for the Storm on Saturday, where they were pitted against the Barrie Colts. For this game the Storm team-played too many minutes short-handed, and as a result lost 3-0. Come Sunday our team had qualified for the finals, and once again we took on home team Bradford Bulldogs. Having met already once this weekend, each team had some idea of what each was capable of. Bradford was on

the score board quickly with a goal in the first minute.

The Storm would tie it in the second on a goal by Tanner B with an assist by Drake. The Bulldogs had several good scoring chances but Jordan Hamilton covered far too much of the net with agility and quickness, stonewalling the home team on many occasions. In the third period, the Storm would get the go-ahead goal from Zach Boice assisted by Andrew Murray. That would be the only scoring for the rest of this high-energy game. The Highland Storm CC centre earned the championship medals for the Bradford Bulldogs A Tournament.

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Community events

Peewee A's results

Dr. Ed Smolen, Family Dentistry Peewee A's traveled to Huntsville on Friday Nov 25 for a 7 pm game on the big ice. The first goal in the first period was by Chase Burden assisted by Andrew Hall, followed by a second goal by Greg Crofts assisted by Matt Wilbee. The second period being mostly shorthanded, the boys battled hard to maintain their lead but by the end the Otters had scored two goals to tie the game. The Highland Storm came out into the third period with determination, but the Otters scored within a few minutes taking the lead. This did not deflate the Storm: they just kept fighting back. As the last seconds ticked off it looked like a win for the Otters, but with just four seconds to go the Storm tied it up with a goal from Matt Wilbee, assisted by Max MacNaull and Ethan Keefer. Once again hard work pays off!

Our game Saturday was against the Bracebridge Bears in Minden. Having lost two regular season games to the Bears, we were wondering how this one would go, hoping for 'third time lucky'. Even though the Storm scored first this did not mean we'd win, but the team's attitude, passing and all round play was excellent.

Greg Crofts scored first, assisted by Matt Wilbee, followed by one from Jake Bishop assisted by Kyle Cooper, and another by Matt Wilbee assisted by Max MacNaull and a second by Matt Wilbee assisted by Greg Crofts. We moved into the second period still a little on edge but so were the goalless Bears.

Goals in the second period were by Josh Boice assisted by Jake Bull, Matt Wilbee (for a hat trick) assisted by Greg Crofts and Jake Bishop assisted by Devyn Prentice. In the third period the Bears persevered and managed one goal at the 9:44 mark. The Storm answered with three, giving us a 10-1 win and some grumpy Bears. The third period goals were scored by Jake Bull assisted by Chase Burden and Jake Bishop, Chris Thompson assisted by Kyle Cooper and Josh Boice, Matt Wilbee assisted by Devyn Prentice.

The third game of the weekend against Huntsville in Haliburton did not go as well for the Storm boys as the previous two. They started out the first period well, but the gel that was holding them together seemed to slip away. The Otters scored in the first period and twice in the second before the Storm managed to answer with one of their own by Matt Wilbee assisted by Ethan Keefer and Chris Thompson. The third period saw two more goals from the Otters including an empty netter and only one from the Storm again by Matt Wilbee assisted by Max MacNaull and Devyn Prentice. Final score: Huntsville 5, Storm 2.

We will be attending the Campbellford Tournament on Saturday Dec 3 and have a home game on Sunday Dec 4 in Minden vs Almaguin at 4 pm.



Christmas Concert

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TheHighlander Community Calendar

December 2011

Thursday – 1

- Community Care Christmas Lunch, Haliburton Legion, 12noon to 2pm, advance tickets only, order by November 24, \$15.00, 705-457-2941, hilary@communitycarehaliburton.com
- Euchre Nights, Minden Legion Branch 636, 7:30pm
- Bid Euchre, Community Care, Haliburton, 1pm, for seniors 55+ or physically disabled adults 18+, Ida 705-457-2941
- Ontario Early Years Centre Minden, Letters to Santa, 144 Bobcaygeon Road, 9:30am to 1pm, 705-286-1770, oeycminden@bellnet.ca

Friday – 2

- Shepherd's Table Community Supper, Lakeside Baptist Church, 5:30 pm, 705-457-2851
- Cribbage, Community Care, Haliburton, 1pm, for seniors 55+ or physically disabled adults 18+, Ida 705-457-2941
- Play Pool! Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 1:30pm, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- Jam Session, Everyone Welcome, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 7pm, local musicians get together for an evening of fun and entertainment, anyone playing a musical instrument is welcome to join in, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- Fish & Chips dinner at the Minden Legion Branch 636, 5pm to 7pm, John Sloan, 705-286-1397, jicsloan@gmail.com

Saturday – 3

- Annual Wildlife Dinner, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 5pm to 7pm, \$13 per person, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- Meat Draw, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 1pm for this week only, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- Karaoke, Minden Legion Branch 636, 7:30pm, John Sloan, 705-286-1397, jicsloan@gmail.com
- Minden Health Care Auxiliary's Gift Shop Open House, Hyland Crest lobby, 10am to 2pm, great holiday gifts and refreshments, dumanoir@sympatico.ca

Sunday – 4

- NFL Football, Big Screen TV, Minden Legion Branch 636, 12:30pm, John Sloan, 705-286-1397, jicsloan@gmail.com
- Christmas Open House, Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop, 7199 Gelert Rd, Main Hospital Entrance, 12pm until 3pm, free photo with Santa from 1pm to 3pm for kids of all ages including those young at heart! Complimentary refreshments and treats.

Monday – 5

- Celebrate Recovery, Lakeside Baptist Church, 7pm to 10pm, admin@lakesidebaptist.ca
- Cribbage Night, Minden Legion Branch 636, 7:30pm
- Cloggers, Lloyd Watson Centre, Wilberforce, 7pm, \$1, all ages welcome
- Contract Bridge, Community Care, Haliburton, 1pm, for seniors 55+ or physically disabled adults 18+, Ida 705-457-2941
- Ontario Early Years Centre Haliburton, Letters to Santa, 83 Maple Avenue, Unit 5, Halco Plaza, 9:30am to 1pm, 705-457-2989, oeychaliburton@bellnet.ca
- Ontario Early Years Centre Minden, Christmas Cards, 144 Bobcaygeon Road, 9:30am to 1pm, 705-286-1770, oeycminden@bellnet.ca
- Bid Euchre, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 7pm, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com

Tuesday – 6

- YWCA Guardian Angel Awards Ceremony, 11:45 am to 1 pm, Fleming College, 705-457-0260, www.ywcapeterborough.org
- Community Care Christmas Lunch, Robert McCausland Community Centre, Gooderham, 12noon to 2pm, advance tickets only, order by November 29, \$15.00, 705-457-2941, hilary@communitycarehaliburton.com
- Euchre Night, West Guilford Recreation Centre, 7pm to 10pm, 705-754-1457, carolstamp@sympatico.ca
- Art Club for Kids, 3:30pm to 5pm, Agnes Jamieson

Gallery, 705-286-3763

- Pool League, Dominion Hotel, Minden, open to all, 705-286-5035
- Ontario Early Years Centre Haliburton, Cooking with Kids, 83 Maple Avenue, Unit 5, Halco Plaza, 9:30am to 1pm, make a nutritious lunch and decorate the tree, 705-457-2989, oeychaliburton@bellnet.ca
- Ontario Early Years Centre Minden, Cooking with Kids & Pizza Party, 144 Bobcaygeon Road, 9:30am to 1pm, 705-286-1770, oeycminden@bellnet.ca

Wednesday – 7

- Art & Tea, Rails End Gallery, for adults who like to talk about art and drink tea
- Community Drumming/Rhythm Circle, Rails End Gallery, 7:30pm to 9pm
- Story Circle, Gooderham Public Library, Pine Street, Gooderham, 11:30am, 705-457-2241 or 705-447-3163
- Darts, Haliburton Legion Branch 129, 7:30pm
- Ontario Early Years Centre Haliburton, Make Your Own Wrapping Paper, 83 Maple Avenue, Unit 5, Halco Plaza, 9:30am to 11:30pm, (closing at 11:30) 705-457-2989, oeychaliburton@bellnet.ca
- Ontario Early Years Centre Minden, Christmas Trees, 144 Bobcaygeon Road, 9:30am to 12pm, (closing at 12noon), 705-286-1770, oeycminden@bellnet.ca
- Darts, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 7:30pm, 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com

Thursday – 8

- Euchre Nights, Minden Legion Branch 636, 7:30pm
- Bid Euchre, Community Care, Haliburton, 1pm, for seniors 55+ or physically disabled adults 18+, Ida 705-457-2941
- Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library's "Friendly" Christmas Sale, Minden Hills Branch Library, in the Book Nook, 10am to 4pm, Christmas Book Baskets, library mugs full of goodies, new Friends book bag and more

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Email details to louise@haliburtonhighlander.ca by Mondays at noon.

Classifieds page

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WILBERFORCE SANTA CLAUS PARADE and party for kids is on again this year, taking place in Wilberforce on December 11. The parade starts at 12:30 pm followed by lunch with santa at the Lloyd Watson centre. For further information, contact Jan Barton, joan@joanbarton.ca.

WILDLIFE DONATIONS - Wilberforce Legion Branch 624 would appreciate donations to our Annual Wildlife Dinner being held Saturday December 3. If you have excess Moose, Venison or Bear, our Branch would appreciate your contribution to our dinner which has long been a vital part of our local culture. Please contact the Branch at (705) 448-2221 or Brian Eves at (705) 448-3512.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JAM SESSIONS are heating up at the Wilberforce Legion Branch 624 every Friday night at 7pm. Talented local musicians get together for an evening of fun and entertainment. Anyone playing a musical instrument is welcome to join in. We get some excellent musicians and a great audience is there to support and enjoy. Don't be shy; come out and have some fun!

The **HALIBURTON HOSPITAL AUXILIARY GIFT SHOP** located at 7199 Gelett Rd, Main Hospital Entrance, is having a **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE** on **SUNDAY DECEMBER 4** from 12pm until 3pm. Come and have a **FREE** photo with Santa between 1pm and 3pm **ONLY** – for Kids of all Ages including those young at heart! A marvellous selection of reasonably priced items, tax free, to choose ... Shop earlier and support the Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary. Complimentary refreshments and treats.

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8:00 am - 11:00 am

Crafts for Kids
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Both at Kinmount Community Centre

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